

My name is Antonio Chappell I represent Urbanmediaone a not-for-profit organization in Chicago's south side Bronzeville community, this is our one and only opportunity to bring community-based radio to our community a challenges in rebuilding our community we need community radio as a key element in rebuilding our historic community.

The challenges and opportunities of Chicago's Bronzeville community are similar to those of many inner city communities. Despite a rich history of vibrant black commerce and culture, the Bronzeville economy is a shambles, jobs are scarce, quality retail is absent, and most Bronzeville residents are poor, un- or underemployed, and subject to rates of illness and crime far above that of the broader population.

The Black Metropolis

Chicago's Bronzeville community exemplifies the need for commercial development in poor urban communities. Bronzeville is a community of roughly 100,000 residents located on the Southside of Chicago Bronzeville enjoys a rich history as the "Black Metropolis", a primary destination point for blacks migrating from the south from the turn of the 20th century to the 1930's and 1940's in search of opportunity. Denied housing elsewhere in the city and with limited access to downtown stores and other opportunities, blacks created a vibrant community around a strong, local consumer-driven economy and a large number of attractive entertainment venues. Jazz legend Louis Armstrong, civil rights leader Ida B. Wells, Lorraine Hansberry, the blues men Muddy Waters, Willie Dixon, Buddy Guy publisher John Johnson and aviatrix Bessie Coleman and more were among the many prominent African Americans who lived or worked in Bronzeville and left an indelible mark on this South Side community's development. Today, this former "Black Metropolis" is a treasure trove of historical and cultural landmarks and experiences ? a living monument to the generations of African Americans who emigrated here from the South during the Great Migration at the turn of the 20th century.

Commerce was the glue to the community and diversity of income and occupation marked each neighborhood. Shoe shiners in kitchenette apartments lived next to barons of business in lofty mansions. Ebony Magazine, Soft Sheen, The Chicago Defender, The Supreme Life Insurance Company, Binga Bank and many other black businesses were born in Bronzeville in this era. Culture and the arts flourished.

Decline and Despair

Bronzeville's fortune began to decline in the 1960's and 1970's. With the elimination of restrictive housing covenants, middle class blacks followed the broader societal trend to the suburbs. At the

same time, local businesses lost many of their customers to well-capitalized downtown and suburban competitors that were newly opening their doors to black patrons. These trends were worsened by three other key external factors:

1. The placement of large numbers of publicly-subsidized housing units in Bronzeville, which brought many additional low-income residents to the community;
2. Decreased access to opportunity-rich communities west of Bronzeville, due to the building of the Dan Ryan Expressway, which acted as an effective barrier; and,
3. The overall decline of the Chicago economy including, the intense difficulties of two major Southside industries, the stock yards and steel mills;

Together these forces drove a decades-long decline of the economic and resident base of the community. Between 1960 and 2000, Bronzeville lost a large portion its residents and housing base, most major businesses closed or moved out, and virtually all of its quality retail and entertainment venues shut down.

Bronzeville's economic problems persist. According to the 2000 U.S. census, more than 35% of Bronzeville residents live below the poverty line and roughly 25% are unemployed. Moreover, a McKinsey & Company "deep dive" study performed in conjunction with the Grand Boulevard Federation, a group of leading social service agencies, and focused on an extended Grand Boulevard community, comprised of nearly half of Bronzeville's residents, revealed needs that are even deeper:

The median household income of Bronzeville's families was less than \$25,000, with over 40% of households living below the poverty line of \$16,500 for a family of four;

More than half of the residents of working age are not employed, the majority of which are no longer in the workforce;

Less than half the community's youth graduate from high school;

The infant mortality rate is almost twice that of the state average and Bronzeville ranks among the 10 worst in almost every maternal and infant health category of 77 Chicago community areas; and,

Crime is a serious problem with violent crime occurring five times more frequently than in the rest of Illinois.

Bronzeville's dismal economic condition prompts large human services expenditures. The study found that over one-quarter of a billion dollars annually is spent to serve an estimated 60% of Grand Boulevard's 47,000 residents. This funding comes from a number of federal, state, city, and private sources and supports a wide array of services intended to stabilize the community.

In the Turnaround - A Place for Everyone?

At the turn of the 21st century, another wave of changes seems set to transform Bronzeville. The Chicago Housing Authority under its Plan for Transformation is demolishing all of its galley-style, family-focused, high-rise housing developments and investing roughly a billion dollars in Bronzeville to replace them with low-rise mixed-income housing meant to blend in with and support the surrounding neighborhoods. At the same time, a Chicago-wide housing boom has begun to bring significant numbers of middle class African Americans to the community, reversing a pattern of out-migration extending for over 4 decades. In aggregate, these trends are creating a substantially increased pool of market-rate housing and are likely to attract middle-class residents looking to take advantage of the community's proximity to downtown and what remains of the gracious, century-old housing stock. Commercial and industrial development is required to create local jobs that would help lower-income residents find an economic footing as well as to provide the basis for the interaction between all residents that is critical to building cohesive communities. We at Urbanmediaone pray community radio gets a chance to thrive and help to revitalize our historic community by using second adjacent frequency waivers for channel 268 101.5 FM 1 of 3 frequency that may be available using second adjacent frequency waivers. With that being said we at Urbanmediaone and the WJPC FM radio project would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this matter.

sincerely

Antonio Chappell

General Manager

Urbanmediaone/WJPC FM Radio Project

(The Soul Of Chicago)

<http://www.wjpcchicago.com/>

Respectfully,
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Chicago IL